

The Mercer County Smart Book:

**A Resource Guide
For Going Home**

“Your Head Start for a Fresh Start”

2008

Prepared for:

The New Jersey Department of Corrections
Division of Programs and Community Services
Office of Transitional Services

By

The Mercer County Ex-Offender Re-entry Partnership

**Quick Reference:
Useful Numbers and Hotlines**

**American Friends Service Committee
Prisoner's Resource Center.....** 1-973-643-2205

CDC National STD and AIDS Hotlines
Spanish..... 1-800-344-7432
English..... 1-800-227-8922

Addictions Hotline of NJ 1-800-238-2333

Alcoholics Anonymous of Central NJ..... 1-609-298-7785

Division of Disability Services (DDS) 1-888-285-3036

Division of Youth & Family Services..... 1-800-792-8610

Hyacinth AIDS Foundation Hotline 1-800-433-0254

Legal Services of New Jersey
Toll-free Hotline,
Mon.– Fri., 9 am – 4:30 pm 1-888-576-5529

NJ Motor Vehicle Commission
Driver's License Suspension & Restoration 1-609-292-7500
Main Information..... 1-888-486-3339 or
1-609-292-6500

NJ Transit
For routes, schedules, & fares
6 am to Midnight, daily..... 1-800-772-2222

Narcotics Anonymous of NJ Helpline..... 1-800-992-0401

National Suicide Crisis Hotline 1-800-784-2433

New Jersey AIDS STD Hotline (Beth Israel) 1-800-624-2377

2-1-1 First Call For Help..... 2-1-1
Se habla español or toll free..... 1-800-331-7272

Mercer County One Stop 1-877-989-AJOB

Social Security Office..... 1-800-772-1213

**Service Empowering Rape Victims
(SERV)** 1-866-295-SERV

**Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline
(Womanspace, Inc.)**
Bilingual and TTY accessible 1-800-572-7233

The Mercer County Smart Book

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First Things First: How to Use this Book

The purpose of this book is to help you get ready to leave prison, return home, and find what you need to get back on your feet. It is specifically focused on what you'll need to know during the first weeks and months that you're back, which can be a time of difficult adjustment. This book will not answer all of the questions you will face in preparing for and adjusting to being back in the community, but it can help you get started. It will also tell you where to go to get more information. **Unless a fee or charge is listed, all of the services and resources listed here are free; however, please note that the fees and charges listed in this guide are subject to change.**

Each section of this book gives general tips you need to know, and it provides addresses, phone numbers and other information about different programs and resources in Mercer County. Things that you can do to get a head start before you are released are highlighted. Getting started early, before you get out, may be one of the best things you can do for yourself to make your first few days at home easier. In the back of this book, is a **"Game Plan"** for the first few weeks, a chart to help you plan ahead. There is also space where you can write down other useful phone numbers and appointments.

You won't find here every service or organization in Mercer County, but again, this book should give you a place to start. The organizations that are listed can help refer you to other places in the area that can be of help to you. For more listings, and for current information about office hours and changes in policies, you can go to the website designed to help former prisoners in Mercer County, www.njsuccess.org. When you get to this site, click on the Central New Jersey tab. You can also contact the folks who wrote and designed this book, Mercer County Ex-Offender Re-entry Partnership by sending an email to partnership@uih.org or calling (609) 695-3663.

GETTING FREE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET

All of the public libraries listed on page 31 should be able to provide you with free internet access

Getting Started: Identification and Other Documents

A. Social Security Card

You can obtain a replacement card if you have a Social Security number (even if you don't remember it). You can request a new card from prison by mail, or after you are released at the local social security office.

Identification and Legal documents (NCHS)

Customer Service Unit, Trenton, 609-292-4087

PRE-RELEASE: The New Jersey Department of Corrections has an agreement in place with the Social Security Administration that allows inmates in the release process to apply for a replacement Social Security Card. This service is offered through the Social Services Department of the correctional facility. The application and card are free. Once approved the card is sent to your correctional facility and will be issued to you upon your release from custody. For more information contact the Social Services Department at your correctional facility.

POST-RELEASE: You can also get the application by phone or by mail, or by walking into the Mercer County Social Security Administration Offices in the Capital Center Building at 635 S Clinton Avenue, 2nd Floor, Trenton, NJ 08611, Phone #: 1.800.772.1213. The form SS-5 can also be downloaded from the Social Security website www.ssa.gov/replace/sscard.html. You can fill it out there and show proof of identification at the SSA office. **Prison release papers count as proof of identification.**

B. Birth certificate

The Office of Vital Statistics in the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services keeps all New Jersey birth records. The fee for a copy is **\$25**.

PRE-RELEASE: You can write a letter requesting a birth certificate, which must include the name on the certificate, the exact date of birth, the exact city and municipality and county of birth, full maiden name of mother and name of father if his name is on the certificate. You must include a photocopy of the identification for the person requesting the record (which may be you; however, someone else may request the birth certificate for you, but they must state their relationship to you in the letter). Valid identification includes a photo driver's license or non-driver's license, photo identification and some other form of identification

- ☒ with an address, or two alternate forms of identification
- ☒ with an address. You can use a prison photo identification,
- ☒ with documentation of the address of the prison.

Mail your request to: NJ Vital Statistics, Customer Service Unit, PO Box 370, Trenton, NJ 08625-0370. It should take 6 to 8 weeks. If you have not received your birth certificate after 8 weeks please call 609-292-4087 and select option "status of current request." For more information and assistance, contact the Social Services Department at your correctional facility.

POST-RELEASE: In addition to writing, you can go directly to the Bureau of Vital Statistics on the first floor of the Health and Agriculture Building in Trenton, on the corner of Warren and Market Streets. In-person counter service is available from 8:30 to 4:00 and you can usually get the certificate on the same day. You will still need the information listed above. For the most current information on ordering and information, visit the following website: www.state.nj.us/health/vital/ or call 1-866-649-8726. You can also obtain a birth certificate from the Registrar in the Office of Vital Statistics in the city of your birth. (There is sometimes a small cost savings.)

A State or local Registrar may issue a certified copy of a vital record only to persons who establish themselves as the subject of the vital record, the subject's parent, legal guardian or legal representative, spouse, child, grandchild or sibling of legal age, or to a State or Federal agency for official purposes, pursuant to court order, or under other emergent circumstances as determined by the Commissioner. All other applicants will be issued a Certification that states the document is not for identification or legal purposes.

C. County Identification

You can obtain a county identification card by going to the Old Courthouse in Trenton or to the County Connection in Hamilton Township. You will need your original birth certificate, original social security card, and three items that have been mailed out to you within the last 60 days that prove your home address.

County Clerk's Office

Old Court House
209 S Broad Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-989-6998
609.99.6464 (automated)
Monday-Friday, 8 am – 4:30 pm
Wednesday (extended hours until 6:30 pm)
County ID card and passport services

You must provide a social security number, show proof of age, and proof of residence in Mercer County (so you can only do this after you are released).

County Connection

Hamilton Square Shopping Center
Rte 33 and Paxson Avenue
Hamilton Township, NJ 08611
Wednesday & Friday, 10 am – 4 pm
Tuesday & Thursday, 10 am – 8 pm
Saturday, 10 am – 3 pm
County ID card and passport services

D. Driver's License

If you do not have a driver's license, you will have to wait until you are released to get one, or to replace a lost card or to renew an expired license – unless you are in a halfway house and

can go directly to the Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC). If you think or know that your license has been suspended you should make certain, and then determine what you need to do to get it back. If you were convicted of any kind of drug offense, your license will have been suspended.

Motor Vehicle Services**Auto Operator License**

Name

Street

City, State

PRE-RELEASE: You can request a copy of your driver's license record, which is called a "driver history abstract." You will have to get and send in a request form (DO-21) from the NJ Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC). You can request this form by phone 1.888.486.3339, or mail to NJ Motor Vehicle Commission, Abstract Unit, 225 East State Street, PO Box 142, Trenton, NJ 08666-0142. Once you receive and complete the form, you will have to send it back with **\$10 and a photocopy of your driver's license**. The abstract will tell you whether your license is suspended and why. Depending on why it is suspended, you may be able to address some of the problems before you get out. For example, if your license was suspended because you failed to show up for a court date because you were incarcerated, you can write the court and try to clear this up by mail. If you owe fines, you will probably not be able to pay these before you get out, but you should try to find out how much you owe, and to whom you owe them.

POST-RELEASE: Once you are out, you can go to the MVC offices in Mercer County (see below) to request a driver history abstract. You will still have to pay **\$10**. If your license was suspended for 6 months or more because of a drug conviction, the period of the suspension will begin from the time of your release. Other kinds of suspension, such as for failure to pay parking tickets, insurance surcharges, or child support, will last until you have paid the fine or worked out a payment plan. For questions about suspension, call the suspension hotline: 1-609-292-7500.

MVC LOCATIONS IN MERCER COUNTY

New Jersey Department of Motor Vehicles
Motor Vehicle Commission
Trenton, NJ 08611
888-486-3339

Mercer County Motor Vehicle Commission Regional Service Center

Trenton
120 S Stockton & Front Streets
Trenton, NJ 08611
Extended hours: Monday until 7:30 pm
Regional Service, Agency, Driver Testing, Titles, Licenses, Registration,
Driver Conferences, Vision and Knowledge Test, Commercial Driver's
License Written Test

Bakers Basin

3200 Brunswick Pike

Route 1 North

Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Monday – Friday 8 am – 4:30 pm

Saturday 8 am – 12 noon

Agency, Driver Testing, Inspection, Road Testing, titles, Licenses,
Registrations, Vision and Knowledge Tests, CDL Written Test, Basic Road
Test, CDL Road Test, Motorcycle/Moped Road Test

Inspection

Monday – Friday, 7 am – 4:30 pm

Tuesday – late closing: 7 pm

Saturday, 7 am – 12 noon

Road Testing

Monday – Friday, 8 am – 4:30 pm

Agency, Driver Testing

Monday 7:30 pm

If you need to replace a lost or stolen license, you will have to bring identification to the MVC and pay **\$11**. The MVC now requires very specific forms of ID. You will need “primary” identification (birth certificate, passport, citizenship papers, etc.) and “secondary” identification (school records, marriage or divorce certificates, employee ID cards, old driver’s licenses, etc.) and proof of your address. You can get a brochure on the new “Six-Point system” from the MVC offices listed above, or from the Motor Vehicle Commission website, www.state.nj.us/mvc. If your license has expired, you will have to go to the MVC to fill out a renewal application. ID will be required. You may have to take the written test again. License renewal costs **\$24**. License reinstatement (after suspension) costs **\$100**.

E. Non-driver’s State Identification

New Jersey (NJVMC) provides Non-Driver photo ID cards. **You can get this official state ID even if your driver’s license is currently suspended**, so this may be a good option for you if it looks like it will take you a long time to get your license back. You will still need to bring the kinds of identification documents described above, under the new Six-Point system to the MVC.

F. Certificates of Naturalization or Citizenship

You will need this for employment if you are not a citizen. In general, if you need to replace lost forms, you can contact the US Citizenship and Immigration Services or Application Support Centers to obtain information about identification and fingerprint verification. There is a fee to process an application for replacement documents. The National Customer Service Hotline is 1-800-375-5283.

CITIZENSHIP LOCATIONS**US Citizenship and Immigration Services**

National Customer Service Center

425 I Street, Washington, DC

1-800-375-5283

Mount Laurel Field Office

530 Fellowship Road

Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

Peter Rodino, Jr. Federal Building

970 Broad St.

Newark, NJ 07102

Application Support Centers

USCIS Application Support Center
24 Commerce Street, Suite 200
Newark, NJ 07102-4005.

USCIS Application Support Center
10300 Drummond Road Suite 100, First Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19154

Immigration & American Citizenship Organization

647 Main Avenue, Suite 205
PO Box 1541
Passaic, NJ 07055
Mercer, NJ 07055
973-472-4648
<http://www.iaco.us>

G. Alien Registration Card ("Green Card")

To replace a missing Green Card, you must go to the US Citizenship & Immigration Services Office (see above), bring identification, and fill out USCIS Form I-90 or you can go to the website and download the forms at www.uscis.gov. It costs **\$260** for processing. **If you have any questions or concerns about your status as a result of your criminal conviction, call Legal Services of New Jersey (at 1-609-695-6249) before going to immigration.**

Central Jersey Legal Services

Mercer County Office
198 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
Phone: 609-695-6249
Fax: 609-392-7952

H. Military Discharge Papers

A Certificate of Release, Discharge from Active Duty, or DD214 Form for short, is generally issued when a service member is honorably discharged from active military duty. The document contains information normally needed to verify military service for benefits, retirement, employment, and membership in veterans' organizations.

PRE-RELEASE: You can write to request a copy of your DD214, from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Newark Regional Office, 20 Washington Place, 3rd Floor, Newark, NJ 07102, or from the main records depository at the National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100. You can do this by letter, but it's better to use the official form SF-180 available by writing to the local or national offices listed above, or by calling 800-829-1000. For more information and assistance contact the Social Services Department at your correctional facility.

POST-RELEASE: You can also complete the application on-line at the NPRC website <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>. The form is located at <http://www.archives.gov/research/order/standard-form-180.pdf>. or you can go to the website www.vetreco.archives.gov and follow the on-screen instructions for requesting personnel records. You will be asked to print out a signature page which can either be mailed or faxed and after they receive the form, the records will be mailed directly to you.

The County Clerk recommends that once a Mercer County veteran obtains his or her DD-214, they file a copy with the Mercer County Clerk's Office, free of charge. Then when a copy is needed, a veteran, an immediate family member or a legally recognized representative of their estate may obtain a copy with proper identification. The Clerk's Office is located in the Old Courthouse at 209 South Broad Street in Trenton. The hours of operation are Monday to

Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. DD-214s can also be mailed to the Clerk's Office for processing. For further information on filing or to obtain military discharge papers call the Mercer County Clerk's office at 609-989-6464.

I. Passport

Although a passport may not seem important at this point, it can serve you well as a form of widely accepted identification that is easier to get, although it does cost money. If you do not have one, after you are released go to the Mercer County Clerk's Office in Trenton; County Connection in Hamilton Township; or the Philadelphia Passport Agency in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. You will need to bring: an original or certified copy of a birth certificate with a raised seal and file date issued by Vital Statistics, a naturalization certificate (if applicable) or a previous US passport. Photocopies are not accepted. You will also need to furnish a social security number and provide identification, such as a valid driver's license, government identification or previous passport issued after your 16th birthday. The expired passport should not be more than 15 years old. However, if you do not have those forms of identification, you can bring with you an identifying witness who has known you for at least 2 years and has a valid driver's license. In addition to this witness, you will have to present 3 other forms of identification. You must bring 2 copies of a 2x2 face-front photo. The cost from the clerk's office or any of the post offices is \$97 for a first-time adult passport and \$67 for a renewal. You may also obtain a passport at most U.S. Post Offices. For further information **contact the Passport Desk at 609-989-6960**

County Clerk's Office

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209 S Broad Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-989-6998
609.99.6464 (automated)
Monday-Friday, 8 am – 4:30 pm
Wednesday (extended hours until 6:30 pm)
County ID card and passport services

You must provide a social security number, show proof of age, and proof of residence in Mercer County (so you can only do this after you are released).

County Connection

Hamilton Square Shopping Center
Rte 33 and Paxson Avenue
Hamilton Township, NJ 08611
Wednesday & Friday, 10 am – 4 pm
Tuesday & Thursday, 10 am – 8 pm
Saturday, 10 am – 3 pm
County ID card and passport services

Philadelphia Passport Agency

US Custom House
200 Chestnut Street, Room 103
Philadelphia, PA 19106
877-487-2778
(This location serves only customers who are traveling or submitting their passports for foreign visas within 14 days).

J. High School Diploma/General Education Diploma (GED)/ High School Equivalency Degree (HSED)/Vocational School Certificates

It is very important to have records of your degrees, school completion certificates or work-related licenses. This will help you get a job, and can also provide additional identification



should you need it. Before you are released, you can write to the school or agency that gave you your degree or certificate. Each of these will have separate procedures. You should also get copies of certificates for programs or classes you completed in prison.

You can also request a GED transcript or diploma verification from the New Jersey Department of Education if you got your GED/diploma in New Jersey, and not at a correctional facility, local district high school, or local adult high school. You will have to fill out a GED Information Request Form, which you can have sent to you by calling the GED information line at 609-777-1050 and requesting that it be mailed to you. You can also pick up the form at a local testing center (which you can do after you are released), or you can download the form from the website <http://www.state.nj.us/njded/students/ged/ged7.htm> or writing to the GED Testing Program, Bureau of Adult Education and Family Literacy, New Jersey Department of Education, PO Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625.

Once you have filled out the form, send it to the above address with a **money order for \$5**. They do not accept personal checks.

K. Prison Release Papers

Make sure you hold on to your prison release papers. These can serve as identification in some circumstances.

First Steps After Release: Where Do I Go to Find ... ?

The first days after you get out can be the toughest. This section will give you information to help you get on your feet: places to go for food, shelter, clothing, money, and other emergency needs. While every agency in Mercer County isn't listed in this book, those places listed will help you get started and work with people coming out of prison. Here are some pointers for the first days out:

BE PREPARED: Put all your paperwork and identification in one place – a folder or an envelope – and have it with you, so you can answer questions.

KEEP RECORDS: Write down the full names and phone numbers of people with whom you've spoken, and the date/time you spoke with them. Keep copies of money orders or receipts for items you've purchased, and letters you've received from government agencies, courts, or organizations that are helping you.

BE PATIENT: You may have to wait in a lot of lines and be put on hold by telephone operators. You will meet a lot of workers who are trying to help a lot of people in addition to you. Expect to wait. Expect to be sent to different offices and workers to obtain all of the services and items that you need. Try to be patient and polite – it will help.

Below you will find the names, addresses, phone numbers and descriptions of agencies and services that can help you. It is a good idea to call before visiting to ensure that their hours of operation haven't changed.

A. First Stops

The agencies below provide either a range of services and/or can refer you to other agencies, depending on what you need.

FIRST-STOP AGENCIES

2-1-1/First Call for Help

Dial 211

800-331-7272 (Homeless Hotline)

Monday – Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Emergency and homeless calls are 24 hours/day

211 provides 24-hour, comprehensive, human service information and referral for residents of Mercer County. 211 can help access information and locate services/programs that connect residents to the resources that are available to them in the community. 211 is equipped for TTY callers and has a language line to connect to 140 different languages.

B. Shelter

These are some of the places providing temporary places to stay.

Catholic Charities – Diocese of Trenton

383 W State Street

Trenton, NJ 08609

609-394-8847

Emergency Housing for families moving from welfare to work and homelessness to permanent housing. No referral required.



Crisis Ministry of Princeton and Trenton

61 Nassau Street

Princeton, NJ 08540

609-921-2135

Rental Assistance, Shelter Food Pantry; Emergency Financial Assistance; Shelter for Addicted Homeless. No referral required.

HomeFront

2265 Brunswick Pike

Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

609-989-9417

Shelter, Food & Clothing for Homeless Families; Short Term Shelter; Housing Search for families who are taking care of children. No referral required.

Interfaith Hospitality Network of Mercer County

121 East Hanover Street

Trenton, NJ 08608

609-396-8849

Temporary Shelter, Meals, Case Management for Mercer County Homeless Families with Children. No referral required.

YWCA of Trenton

1908 Riverside Drive

Trenton, NJ 08608

609-989-9592

Housing/Rooms, Rental Assistance for men and women

ADULTS ONLY

Rescue Mission of Trenton

98 Carroll Street

Trenton, NJ 08609

609.695.1436 ext 125

Shelter Hours: 4 pm – 8 am

Shelter, Food, Clothing, Addiction Services for adult men and women

FOOD PANTRIES

C. Food

There are three ways to get help with food: 1) public benefits to help purchase food, 2) food pantries that provide groceries, and 3) soup kitchens that provide hot or prepared food. Food stamps and other public benefits are discussed under “Money.” Food pantries and soup kitchens are below.

Christ Church Community Center

331 Hamilton Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-394-8926
Food Pantry, Day Care, Senior Citizen Program, ESL Program

Crisis Ministry

123 East Hanover Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-396-9355 x12
Food Pantry & Financial Services for Low Income People in Mercer County

Crisis Ministry of Princeton and Trenton

61 Nassau Street
Princeton, NJ 08540
609-921-2135
Food Pantry; Emergency Financial Assistance; Shelter for Addicted Homeless

Hamilton Neighborhood Service Center, Inc.

169 Wilfred Avenue
Hamilton, NJ 08610
609-393-6480
Emergency Services (Food, Food Pantry, Financial); Crisis Intervention

HomeFront

2265 Brunswick Pike
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
609-989-9417
Food & Clothing for Homeless Families; Food Pantry, Short-Term Shelter; Housing Search

Mercer Street Friends

1100 W State Street
Trenton, NJ 08618
609-396-8414
Food Pantry

Mercer Street Friends Center

151 Mercer Street
Trenton, NJ 08611
609-989-1925
Food, Food Pantry

Mount Carmel Guild of Trenton

73 N. Clinton Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-392-3402
Transitional Housing; Emergency Assistance – Food Pantry, Clothing, Personal Care Items

Phoebe's Pantry
400 Hamilton Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-393-6318
Food Pantry

Trenton Area Soup Kitchen
72 1/2 Escher Street
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-695-5456
Food, Food Pantry, Soup Kitchen; Adult Education; Computer Classes; Job Search Assistance

Trinity Cathedral Food Pantry
801 W State Street
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-392-3805 x 100
Food Pantry

SOUP KITCHENS

Interfaith Hospitality Network of Mercer County
121 East Hanover Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-396-8849
Soup Kitchen, Meals

Jerusalem Baptist Church
150 N Clinton Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-394-9816
Soup Kitchen
Monthly Community Meal & Free Clothing

Princeton Deliverance Center
402-408 Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-392-9161
Food, Soup Kitchen, Meals

Rescue Mission of Trenton
98 Carroll Street
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-695-1436 ext. 125
Food, Clothing, Shelter, Job Placement, Substance Abuse Treatment

St. Mary's Church (Loaves and Fishes)
151 N. Warren St.
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-396-8447
Food, Soup Kitchen

Trenton Area Soup Kitchen
72 1/2 Escher Street
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-695-5456
Soup Kitchen, Food, Food Pantry

D. Clothing

The following places provide free or low-cost clothing.

FREE OR LOW-COST CLOTHING SOURCES

East Trenton Center

601 N Clinton Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-393-4880

Food; Clothing; Job Referrals; N/A Meetings



HomeFront

2265 Brunswick Pike
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
609-989-9417

Food & Clothing for Homeless Families; Short Term Shelter; Housing Search

Jerusalem Baptist Church

150 N Clinton Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-394-9816

Monthly Community Meal & Free Clothing

Martin House Clothing Store

802 East State Street
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-989-8143
Clothing Closet

Mount Carmel Guild of Trenton

73 N Clinton Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-392-3402

Transitional Housing; Emergency Assistance - Food, Clothing, Personal Care Items

New Covenant United Methodist Church

1965 S Broad Street
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-393-4725

Emergency Food & Clothing

Rescue Mission of Trenton

98 Carroll Street
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-695-1436 ext. 125

Clothing, Furniture, Household Items

F. Transportation

There is no general program to provide assistance paying for transportation. Though NJ Transit no longer accepts release papers in substitute for bus tickets, many correctional facilities offer discounted transit tickets home. You may contact your correctional facility Social Services Department for more information on this program. Additionally, some of the programs listed in this book will provide bus passes or bus cards to help you participate in the program. If you need that help, make sure you ask. For specific bus line information contact NJ Transit: 800-772-2222 or <http://www.njtransit.com>. If you click on the "trip planner" section you can find out routes.



If you are going to drive places, remember that you **must** have a valid driver's license, and you **must** have insurance for any vehicle that you are driving.

Family Guidance Center

1931 Nottingham Way
Hamilton, NJ 08611

HIV Life Skills Program, HIV testing, case management, transportation and referrals for persons infected, affected or concerned about HIV/AIDS

Hamilton Neighborhood Service Center, Inc.

169 Wilfred Avenue
Hamilton, NJ 08611
609-393-6480

Transportation, Emergency Services (Food, Financial), Crisis Intervention for youth, seniors, and low income & otherwise disadvantaged residents of Hamilton

Mercer Street Friends Center

151 Mercer Street
Trenton, NJ 08611
609-989-1925
Transportation

Low-Cost Car Insurance

New Jersey now has a "Dollar-A-Day Car Insurance Program" for low-income individuals who receive Medicaid and who want to insure a car registered in their name. It costs **\$360** per year if you pay all at once and **\$365** if you pay in installments. You cannot get this insurance if your license or registration is revoked or suspended. For more information contact: 800-652-2471; <http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/dollaradayqna.htm>.

TRANSPORTATION FOR THE DISABLED

Transportation is generally geared toward seniors, disabled, individuals with AIDS or HIV and others with significant needs. Some agencies provide transportation for their program participants only. Contact the agencies below to determine eligibility requirements.

Hamilton Neighborhood Service Center, Inc.

169 Wilfred Avenue
Hamilton, NJ 08611
609-393-6480

Transportation, Emergency Services (Food, Financial); Crisis Intervention

Interfaith Caregivers Trenton/FIA, Inc.

207 Hillcrest Ave
Trenton, NJ 08618
609.393.9922

Medicaid

7 Quakerbridge Plaza
PO Box 712
Trenton, NJ 08650
800.356.1561

Mercer County Board of Social Services

200 Woolverton St.
P.O. Box 1450
Trenton, NJ 08650

Mercer Street Friends Center

151 Mercer Street
Trenton, NJ 08611
609-989-1925

Trade Transportation
300 Scotch Road, Bldg 1
Trenton, NJ 08638
609.530.1971

G. Money

Once you get out, you will need a source of income, at least temporarily, until you can find a job. (See under "Finding a Job" for information about looking for work). **The DOC does not provide "gate money," except for any money you may have in your inmate account. If it is possible to save any money before you get out; you should try to do so.** Parole may give emergency funds, based on need, but it's at their discretion – ask your parole officer.

You may be able to get some kind of public assistance ("welfare"), but not everyone qualifies. Here are the basics of what you'll need to know about getting benefits.



GENERAL ASSISTANCE (WFNJ-GA) AND TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (WFNJ-TANF)

provide cash benefits – GA for single people and TANF for people who have their children with them. Both programs will require you to work or be actively looking for work and both have a five-year lifetime time limit. Work First New Jersey also has an Emergency Assistance program that you may qualify for if you are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless: it can pay for things like food, clothing and transportation costs to look for housing, but also temporary rental or mortgage payment assistance and utility payments.

WFNJ-GA AND WFNJ-TANF APPLICATION SITE:

Mercer County Board of Social Services
200 Woolverton Street
PO Box 1450
Trenton, NJ 08650
609.989.4320 or 1-800-564-1595
609.989.4491
mcboss@compuserve.com
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Tuesday, 8:30 am – 8:30 pm

NOTE: If you were convicted of an offense involving distribution or sale of drugs after August 22, 1996, you cannot receive cash benefits under GA or TANF. If you were convicted of an offense after that date that only involved possession of drugs, you may be able to get benefits if you completed or are enrolled in a licensed drug treatment program, or completed a program in prison and are drug free (you will have to submit to drug testing). If you apply for welfare and the case worker asks about your criminal background, you should answer truthfully and to the best of your knowledge. If you lie, you may be found "ineligible" and could also be prosecuted.

Food Stamps

Food Stamps help eligible recipients buy food using a debit card. Benefits are provided based on family size, income, expenses, and resources. Call 609-989-4491 or 609-989-4491. You apply at the same place you apply for cash benefits. If you were convicted after August 22, 1996, of a drug distribution or sales offense, you may still be able to get Food Stamps if you have completed or are enrolled in a licensed drug treatment program, or completed a program in prison and are drug free (you will be tested). The same goes for possession offenses.

Family Guidance Center
946 Englewood Avenue
Trenton , NJ 08609
609-924-1320/800-813-0555
Credit Counseling, Financial, Financial Assistance

Hamilton Neighborhood Service Center, Inc.
169 Wilfred Avenue
Hamilton , NJ 08611
609-393-6480
Emergency Services (Food, Financial),
Crisis Intervention

Crisis Ministry
123 East Hanover Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-396-9355 x12
Food & Financial Services for Low Income People in Mercer County

Crisis Ministry of Princeton and Trenton
61 Nassau Street
Princeton , NJ 08540
609-921-2135
Food Pantry; Emergency Financial Assistance; Shelter for Addicted
Homeless

Mercer County Board of Social Services
22 Woolverton Street
Trenton, NJ 08650
609-989-4664
Housing & Financial Assistance Services

Mercer County HIV Consortium
447 Bellevue Avenue
Trenton , NJ 08618
800-550-6755
Financial Assistance

Social Security (SSI, Medicare, Medicaid)
Capital Center Building, 2nd Floor
Trenton, NJ 08625
800-772-1213
Financial, Social Security
Hours: Monday-Friday 9 am – 4 pm

VETERANS BENEFITS: If you were receiving veteran's benefits (disability or pension) and you were incarcerated for more than 60 days, you will have to get reinstated after you are released. If you were not receiving benefits and you are a veteran, you may be eligible for benefits or for some of their other programs and services, including healthcare. You can contact the VA for questions about benefits at 800-827-1000; the health benefit number is 877-222-VETS. Discuss your Benefits with the VA Benefit Administration (regional office) located at 20 Washington Place, 3rd Floor, Newark, 973-645-1441 or at the Mercer County Department of Veterans Affairs. **Be advised that the VA takes considerable time to make decisions. On average, it takes 273 days to process a new application for benefits.**

OTHER BENEFIT PROGRAMS: You may be eligible for other cash benefits, including Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability Benefits. If you are seriously disabled and cannot work. Call 1-800-772-1213 and the Women's, Infants, Children (WIC) program, which gives food vouchers to low-income parents. Inquire about WIC at the city or county welfare office.

Taking Care of Yourself: Getting Support

Coming home and readjusting to living on the outside can be tough, and there are places where you can get some support from people who have been through it already and know how the game is played. They can help you get back on your feet. Below are a few places to start. In addition, there are Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) support group meetings throughout Mercer County. To find a meeting near you, call 866-920-1212 for AA or 800-992-0401 for NA. For other self-help group resources, call the New Jersey Self Help Clearinghouse at 800-367-6274.



Taking Care of Yourself: Health Care Resources

It is very important that you pay attention to your health during the period after you are released, to make sure you have a plan to get prescriptions that you need filled and to see a doctor if you have health conditions that need care. Also, stress and changes in routine can make many health conditions worse. Below, you'll find information on paying for healthcare and clinics and other resources in Mercer County.

A. Health Care Benefits: Am I eligible?

In New Jersey, the **Medicaid** program provides healthcare benefits for some low-income people. If you gain custody of children under 18 when you are released, you may qualify if you are single, or if the main breadwinner in the household is unemployed, or isn't earning enough to support the family. Otherwise if you are single, you will only qualify for Medicaid if you are low-income and are aged (over 65), blind or so disabled that you are unable to work. If you are disabled and are applying for SSI, you will also be screened for Medicaid at that time. If you qualify for General Assistance benefits, you will get some very basic healthcare benefits through Medicaid ("Plan G"). **Medicaid is a separate program from GA or TANF, so you don't have to receive those benefits to qualify for Medicaid.** For questions about Medicaid eligibility, call the NJ Medicaid Hotline at 1-800-356-1561. To apply for Medicaid in Mercer County go to the Mercer County Board of Social Services at 200 Woolverton Street in Trenton, 609-989-4664.

If you are a veteran, you may be eligible for healthcare benefits through the **Veteran's Administration**, which provides a "Medical Benefits Package" for enrolled veterans. You can call 877-222-VETS for more information about eligibility and applying for benefits.

If you are HIV positive or have AIDS, you may also be eligible for the **AIDS Drug Distribution Program (ADDP)**, which provides help paying for AIDS medication for people who don't have any other means of paying. **You can apply for this program before you are released.** Contact the **Aids Drug Distribution Program** at 609-588-7038 or toll free at 877-613-4533, Monday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm to apply.

Easter Seals New Jersey provides information, referrals and loans of medical equipment (including wheelchairs) to people in need. For information call 732-257-6662.

B. General HealthCare Providers

Even if you do not have Medicaid or other health insurance or benefits, Mercer County has clinics that provide primary health care at low cost, sliding scale or for free. They are listed below. Most hospitals have charity care and you should ask about this if you go to a hospital emergency room for treatment.

MERCER COUNTY HEALTHCARE LOCATIONS

Capital Health System at Fuld

750 Brunswick Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08638
609-394-6000
Clinics, Medicaid, Medical Care, General Acute Medical Care

Capital Health System at Mercer

446 Bellevue Avenue
Trenton , NJ 08618
609-394-4000
Clinics, Medicaid, Medical Care, General Acute Medical Care

Chambers Manor Family Practice

317 Chambers Street
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-392-2635
Clinics, Medical Care

Haitian Center-Diocese of Trenton

33 West Front Street-Rear
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-394-5693
Medical Care

Henry J. Austin Health Center

112 Ewing Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-396-9600
Clinics, Medical Care

Henry J. Austin Health Center

321 N Warren Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-989-3599
Clinics, Dental Care, Medicaid, Medical Care, Women's health care

Mercer County HIV Consortium

447 Bellevue Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08618
800-5506755
Dental Care, Medical Care

Robert Wood Johnson Hospital at Hamilton

One Hamilton Health Place
Hamilton , NJ 08611
609-586-7900
Clinics, Medicaid, Medical Care, General Acute Medical Care

St. Francis Medical Center

601 Hamilton Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08629
609-599-5000
Clinics, Medicaid, Medical Care, General Acute Medical Care

Trenton Division of Health

218 N. Broad St.
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-989-3242
Health Promotions and Clinical Services; Health Incentive Program for Women (HIP4W)

University Medical Center at Princeton

253 Witherspoon Street
Princeton , NJ 08540
609-497-4000
Clinics, Medicaid, Medical Care, General Acute Medical Care

MERCER COUNTY DEPT OF HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES

640 S Broad Street
Trenton, NJ 08625
609.989.6526

Community Services Division	609/989-6982
Health & Behavioral Health Division	609/989-6897
Mercer County Geriatric Center	609/588-5801
Mercer County Library System	609/989-6917
Mercer County Youth Detention Center	609/434-4125

PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF CENTRAL NJ

Planned Parenthood Health Centers provide a variety of reproductive health services such as gynecological care, birth control services, pregnancy testing, STD testing and treatment, pre-natal care, primary care and cancer screenings. Not all centers provide the same services, so it's important to check before scheduling an appointment.

Administrative Offices

69 E Newman Springs Road □
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702
732-842-9300 or 1-800-230-PLAN

Health Center

437 East State Street □
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-599-4881

Hamilton Square

Golden Crest Corporate Center □
2279 Route 33, Suite 510 □
Hamilton Square, NJ 08690
609-689-4964

C. Services for People with HIV/AIDS

In addition to the clinics listed above, a number of places in Mercer County offer care and support services specifically for people with HIV and AIDS.

Chambers Manor Family Practice

317 Chambers Street
Trenton, NJ 08611
609.392.2635

Family Guidance Center

253 Nassau Street
Princeton, NJ 08540
888.866.9565

Family Guidance Center

946 Englewood Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08609
609.924.1320
800.813.0555

Henry J. Austin Health Center

112 Ewing Street
Trenton, NJ 08609
609.396.9600

Henry J. Austin Health Center

321 N Warren St
Trenton, NJ 08608
609.989.3599

Hyacinth AIDS Foundation

986 S Broad Street
Trenton, NJ 08609
609.396.8322

Case management, support groups, buddy services and treatment advocacy

Mercer Area Early Intervention Services (EIS)

413 Hillcrest Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08618
609.538.0025

Mercer County HIV Consortium

1018 Hamilton Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08609
800.550.6755

Case Management – HIV/AIDS

Mercer County HIV Consortium

447 Bellevue Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08618
800.550.6755

NJ AIDS/STD Hotline

1-800-624-2377 – 24 hours/day
1.800.433.0254

The hotlines provide referrals, general information, counseling, testing locations and treatment information.

D. Services for People With Tuberculosis and Hepatitis C

In addition to the general medical care facilities listed above, there are a few services especially for people with tuberculosis and hepatitis C.

TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM, MERCER COUNTY**TRENTON**

Capital Health System @ Mercer
Mercer County TB Services
446 Bellevue Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08618
Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 3:00 pm

E. Dental Care

Most of the locations listed below don't provide free care, but do have a sliding scale for those without insurance. Waiting lists can be long.

Henry J. Austin Health Center

321 North Warren Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-989-3599

Clinics, Dental Care, Medicaid, Medical Care, Women's healthcare

**Mercer County HIV Consortium**

447 Bellevue Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08618
800-5506755

Dental & Medical Care Referrals



F. Substance Abuse Resources

Getting clean and staying clean if you've got a problem with alcohol or drugs will be a major task for you if you want to stay out of trouble. Many of the health clinics, support centers and other resources listed in this guide can help refer you to treatment that most fit your needs. Listed below are some of Mercer County's treatment resources and each of these will also help with referrals if they can't help you. If you want treatment, you should also ask your parole officer for help – beds in treatment facilities are hard to come by, and they can help get you in. Also, you can call the Addictions Hotline of NJ at 800-238-2333 or the Mercer County Office on Addiction Services, Mercer County Administration Building, 640 S Broad Street, PO Box 8068, Trenton, Monday – Friday, 8am-5pm.

DETOXIFICATION**Princeton House**

905 Herronton Road
Princeton, NJ 08540
609.497.3300
Inpatient Addiction Recovery Program

Princeton House

905 Herronton Rd
Princeton, NJ 08540
800.242.2550
Women's Trauma and Addiction Program

New Horizon

132 Perry Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
609.394.8988

OUTPATIENT AND RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT**Addictions Hotline of New Jersey**

PO Box 1004, Williamstown
800-238-2333
Hours: 24 hours/day
Provides NJ residents with information about the types of detoxification, evaluation, treatment, professional and support groups available to drug and alcohol abusers or addicts who wish to stop their use of chemical substances.

National Clearinghouse for Drug and Alcohol Information

800-729-6686
24 hours/day
The nation's one-stop resource for substance abuse prevention and treatment information.

Mercer County Division of Mental Health

640 S Broad Street
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-989-6523
Planning, administration and coordination of alcohol and drug abuse services in the County

Catholic Charities – Diocese of Trenton

383 W State Street
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-392-1200
Substance Abuse Addiction Services

Center for Family Services

250 S Delsea Drive
Glassboro, NJ 08028
856.881.7045
Addiction Services, Alcohol Treatment, Drug Dependency, Drug Treatment

Crawford House

362 Sunset Road
Skillman, NJ 08558
908.874.5153
Chemical-Free Residential Treatment for Women

Family Guidance Center

946 Englewood Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-924-1320/800-813-0555
Addiction Services, Alcohol Treatment, Drug Dependency, Drug Treatment,
Substance Abuse

Family Transition Support Services

PO Box 152
Titusville, NJ 08560
215.493.0995
Addiction Services, Addiction Counseling, Mentoring, Substance Abuse

Greater Trenton Behavioral HealthCare

132 Warren Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
888-866-9565
Adult Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic & Partial Care
Outpatient: Sliding scale \$10-\$90; accept Medicaid & Medicare. Partial
Care: Accept Medicaid. Both: Accept any insurance that will reimburse but
not HMOs.

HiTops, Inc.

21 Wiggins Street
Princeton, NJ 08540
609.683.5155

Maryville, Inc.

1903 Grant Avenue
Williamstown, NJ 08094
856-629-0244
Addiction Services, MICA

Mercer Council on Alcoholism and Drug Addiction

408 Bellevue Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08618
609-396-5874
Addiction Services

Mercer Employee Assistance Service

477 Bellevue Avenue, 1st floor
Trenton, NJ 08618
800-334-MEAS
Addiction Services, Alcohol Treatment, Drug Dependency, Drug Treatment,
Substance Abuse

Mercer Street Friends Center

151 Mercer Street
Trenton, NJ 08611
609-989-1925
Addiction Services, Substance Abuse

Rescue Mission of Trenton

98 Carroll Street
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-695-1436 ext. 125
Addiction Services, Residential and Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment,
Food, Clothing, Shelter, Job Placement

Salvation Army

436 Mulberry Street
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-599-9801
Addiction Services

G. Mental Health Services/Individual Counseling

While the medical care and drug treatment facilities listed above may be able to assist you with medication for mental health issues, and some counseling as well, there are also places to go to get counseling and therapy and other mental health services. Some of these services require Medicaid or other insurance, but some will also have sliding scale payments.

Achievement Center of Hamilton

2622 Nottingham Way
Hamilton, NJ 08611
(Information has no phone listing.)
Counseling, Mental Health Services, Sex Offender Therapy

Adult Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic & Partial Care

132 Warren Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
888-866-9565
Counseling, Mental Health Services, Mental Illness

Association for Advancement of Mental Health

819 Alexander Road
Princeton, NJ 08540
609-452-2088
Individual, group and family therapy, case management and medication monitoring

Family Guidance Center

1931 Nottingham
Hamilton, NJ 08611
609-587-7044
Counseling

Family Guidance Center

946 Englewood Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-924-1320/800-813-0555
Mental Health Services

Family Transition Support Services

Addiction Counseling, Mentoring
PO Box 152
Titusville, NJ 08560
215-493-0995
Anger Management, Counseling

Greater Trenton Behavioral HealthCare

132 Warren Street (also 253 Nassau Street)
Trenton, NJ 08608
888-866-9565

Adult Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic & Partial Care

Outpatient: Sliding scale \$10-\$90; Medicaid & Medicare. Partial Care:
Medicaid. Both: Accept any insurance that will reimburse, but not HMOs.

Jewish Family and Children's Services of Central NJ

707 Alexander Road, Suite 102
Princeton, NJ 08540
609-987-8100
Counseling and Case Management

**Mercer County Division of Mental Health**

640 South Broad Street
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-989-6523
Addiction Services; Mental Health Services

National Mental Health Association

1-800-969-6642

Provides high-quality, low-cost, individual, couple, family and group
counseling services to all who seek treatment. Sliding-scale fees.

PSTCHealth Associates, P.A.

2999 Princeton Pike, Suite 6
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
609-538-0010
Counseling, Mental Health Services, Sex Offender Therapy

Princeton Professional Park

601 Ewing Street, C-20
Princeton, NJ 08540
609-497-9700
Counseling, Mental Health Services, Sex Offender Therapy

SERV Centers of New Jersey/Mercer County

407 W State Street
Trenton, NJ 08618
609.394.0212

Trinity Counseling Service

22 Stockton Street
Princeton, NJ 08540
609-924-0060
Counseling, Mental Health Services

H. Free/Low Cost Eyeglasses/Eye care**Campus Eye Group –
Henry J Austin Health Center**

112 Ewing Street
Trenton, NJ 08609
609.396.9600
Hours of Operation:
Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 4:00 pm



**Campus Eye Group –
Henry J Austin Health Center**
321 N Warren Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-989-3599
Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm
Saturday, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Clinics, Dental Care, Medicaid, Medical Care, Women's health care

New Eyes for the Needy

549 Millburn Avenue
PO Box 332
Short Hills, NJ 07078
973-376-4903
973-376-3807

Eligibility: Must be in financial need; have had a recent eye exam. (New Eyes does not pay for eye exams.); have no other resources available to pay for glasses, including federal or state programs or assistance from local charitable organizations; income at or below the U.S. poverty guidelines
A New Eyes voucher typically covers only the cost of a basic pair of single or bifocal eyeglasses.

Finding a Job: Employment Assistance and Training Programs

Getting a job is usually one of the most important things people need to do when they get out of prison. You need money to support yourself and help your family and you want to get on with your life and do something productive. Not everyone can get to work right away – things like getting drug treatment, dealing with your housing, health or family situation may sometimes come first. For most people, though, finding work is the first step to getting back on their feet. It will be very challenging to get a job once you have been in prison, but it is not impossible, and you need to be persistent and patient. Below are some tips on job searching, and information about resources that can help you find a job or get training for the job you want.

A. Things to Know Before You Start Your Job Search

BE PREPARED! Have all your documents in order – identification, school diplomas and training certificates. If you do not have a résumé, make sure you have a list of work experiences you've had, schools and training programs you've completed with names and addresses, so you can fill out applications. Decide who your references will be and have their information handy: a former employer, a pastor or priest, a teacher or coach, somebody who knows you and can speak well of you.

PRESENTATION MATTERS: Look as neat, clean and organized as possible, no matter what the job is. Be polite and respectful, even when people are not polite and respectful to you – and many won't be. Making the person you want to help you or hire you mad won't get you the job you want.

TALKING ABOUT YOUR CRIMINAL RECORD: If you are asked about your criminal record, you should not lie. If you do, and you are later found out, you'll probably be fired for lying, even if the record wasn't going to be a problem. It is easy for employers to perform criminal background checks, and many do. Before you apply for a job, think about what you will say when you are asked about your criminal background. You can be up front, but still stress what your strengths are, what you have to offer, what you have learned from your experience. Practice with a friend. While it is important to be honest, you should only answer the interview or application questions that you are asked. If you are asked, for example, about felony convictions during the past 7 years, you don't have to volunteer information about misdemeanors, arrests that did not lead to convictions, or convictions from more than seven years ago. But, if you are going to have to work around appointments with

your parole officer, or other requirements of parole, keep in mind that you will have to work this out with your employer, which means telling him or her that you are on parole, even if you are not asked.

IT'S A JOB FOR RIGHT NOW; IT'S NOT THE REST OF YOUR LIFE

When you are first starting out, especially if you've been out of the job market for a while, or have never had a job, you need to build a work history, and, of course, you need to make some money. Take whatever job you can get for now. It doesn't have to be the exact job you want or what you eventually want to be doing. Do this job well, even if it's not a great job, and it may help you get a better one in the future. A year of good job performance will make your criminal record matter less.

B. Help with Job Search and Job Training: Resources

The following are good places to start in looking for a job.

Center for Educational Advancement

11 Minneakoning Road
Flemington , NJ 08822
908-782-1480
Computer Training, Job Placement, Job Training, Jobs, Vocational training

**Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Vocational Rehabilitation Services**

Labor Station Plaza
28 Yard Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-2940
Career guidance, Job Placement, Job Training, Life Skill Training, Vocational training

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

DVRS Central Office
135 E State Street, 3rd Floor
PO BOX 398
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-5987
609-292-2919 (TTY)

East Trenton Center

601 N. Clinton Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-393-4880
Jobs, Job Referrals, Food, Clothing, NA Meetings

East Windsor Community Education

5 Kent Lane
East Windsor, NJ 08520
609-443-7804
Computer Training Adult & Community Education Courses; Computer Training in Spring & Fall

Hamilton Neighborhood Service Center, Inc.

Emergency Services (Food, Financial); Crisis Intervention; et al
169 Wilfred Avenue
Hamilton , NJ 08611
609-393-6480
Information and referrals, youth and senior services, transportation, employment, education, income maintenance, health, notary, food pantry, emergency services, crisis intervention, work site for community service

Jewish Family and Children's Services of Central NJ

707 Alexander Road, Bldg 2, Suite 208
Princeton , NJ 08540
609-298-1981
Job Placement, Job Training, Supported Employment

Jobseekers

33 Mercer Street
Princeton , NJ 08540
609-924-2277
Career guidance

Martin House

Educational & Employment Services
794 East State Street
Trenton , NJ 08609
609-989-8143
Career guidance, GED, literacy classes, ESL

Mercer County Board of Social Services

200 Woolverton Street
Trenton, NJ 08650
609-989-4491
Job Placement

Mercer County Community College/James Kerney Campus

N Broad & Academy Streets
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-586-4800, ext. 6685
ABE/GED Classes; Credit & Non-credit Courses

Mercer County Library

61 Scotch Road
West Trenton , NJ 08638
609-882-3130
Job Search

Mercer County Library

138 Hickory Corner Road
East Windsor, NJ 08520
609-448-8520
Job Search

Mercer County Library

2751 Brunswick Pike
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
609-882-9246
Job Search

Mercer County One-Stop Career Center

26 Yard Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08625
Phone: 609-989-6523
Toll Free: 877-989-AJOB
Monday-Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm and Tuesdays, 8:30 am - 8:30 pm
Mondays & Wednesdays at 9:00 am & 1:15 pm
Fridays at 9:00 am only
Employment Services, Job Placement, Job Training
609-989-6523
Computer Training, Employment agencies, Job Placement, Job Training, Jobs,
Career guidance, Vocational training

Salvation Army – Trenton

575 E. State Street
Trenton
609-599-9373
Day Center for Homeless; GED; Life Skills & Alternative Work Experience

Trenton Area Soup Kitchen

72 1/2 Escher Street
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-695-5456
Career guidance, Computer Training, Jobs, Job Search Assistance, Adult Education, Computer Classes, Soup Kitchen

Trenton Public Library

Cadwalader Library
Trenton, NJ 08618
609 392-1828
Computers for job search

Trenton Public Library

120 Academy Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
609 392-7188
Computer Training, Jobs

C. Legal Restrictions on Employment and Protections Against Discrimination

If you are interested in getting a job and building a career in a particular area, you should make sure that it isn't one that is forbidden to someone with the kind of criminal conviction that you have on your record. There are about 22 categories of jobs in New Jersey that exclude people with convictions (which conviction it is varies by job). These include: aircraft/airport employees; paid public school employees; school bus drivers and school crossing guards; bank employees; bartenders and waiters in establishments where liquor is served; housing authority and municipal police and parking enforcement officers; New Jersey Turnpike Authority employees; liquor retail, wholesale, manufacturing or distributing employees; paid firefighters; child care center employees; community residences for individuals with developmental disabilities. A much larger number of jobs require that you disclose your criminal record, and that employers perform background checks; some of these, however, also require that employers consider evidence of rehabilitation. These include most jobs in the health care and counseling fields (including drug and alcohol counseling) and social workers.

If you are going to begin training in a particular field, make sure you find out from the training course whether there are any restrictions that will keep you from getting a job.

PROTECTIONS FOR LICENSED OCCUPATIONS:

If you are not absolutely barred from a position because of your conviction, New Jersey law says that you cannot be denied a professional license simply because of your conviction unless the crime for which you were convicted relates to the occupation you want to enter. If the licensing board or agency wants to deny you a license because the crime is related to the occupation, they have to explain, in writing, that they have considered certain factors like the seriousness of the crime, the circumstances of the crime, the date and your age when convicted, whether the crime was an isolated or repeated event, social conditions, and evidence of rehabilitation. You can ask your parole officer about applying for "certificate of rehabilitation," which can be used in your license application.

D. Benefits for Employers Who Hire People With Criminal Records

As you look for a job you can tell employers that the federal government has programs to support employers who hire people coming out of prison.

WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT

An employer who hires people with criminal records is eligible to receive a Work Opportunity Tax Credit, a small rebate on their federal taxes. For more information you or the employer can call 1.800.792.8881 or 609-292-8112, or go to the internet at http://www.state.nj.us/njbiz/s_wotc.shtml.

FEDERAL BONDING PROGRAM

The Federal Bonding program provides bonding or “insurance coverage” for employers who hire individuals with criminal histories who are otherwise qualified but cannot get jobs due to their backgrounds. You can get information about this program from the New Jersey Department of Labor, Workforce Division or the local One-stop Career Center.

E. Opening a Checking or Savings Account

After you’ve gotten a source of income, you may want to open a checking or savings account.

A checking account is a great idea because many jobs provide direct deposit, and your check is automatically deposited into your account on payday. Using checks to pay for your bills is also cheaper than using money orders. To open a checking account you usually need a picture identification (driver’s license or non-driver state identification), proof of address, birth certificate, and a social security card. You can also request a debit card with your account, which you can use just like a credit card (as long as you have the money in your account already). You can get a debit card for either a checking account, or a savings account, but with a savings account you can earn interest on the money you’ve saved. Fees for these accounts will vary depending on the type of account and bank. Many banks now offer free checking.



F. Public Libraries

Your local public library can be a good resource for your job search. Public computers provide Internet access (and help from a librarian in using the computer), job and course listings, and other local directories. In addition, libraries often carry the government forms mentioned in this guide, and librarians can help you find information beyond the scope of this book.

LIBRARIES

Mercer County Library System

Ewing Branch Library

The Mercer County Library System
61 Scotch Road
Ewing, NJ 08628
Phone: (609) 882-3130

Hickory Corner Branch Library

The Mercer County Library System
138 Hickory Corner Road
East Windsor, NJ 08520
Phone: (609) 448-1330

Hightstown Memorial Branch

The Mercer County Library System
114 Franklin Street
Hightstown, NJ 08520
Phone: (609) 448-1474



Hopewell Branch

The Mercer County Library System
245 Pennington-Titusville Road
Pennington, NJ 08534
Phone: (609) 737-2610

Lawrence Headquarters Branch

The Mercer County Library System
2751 Brunswick Pike
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
Phone: (609) 882-9246

Robbinsville Branch

The Mercer County Library System
42 Allentown-Robbinsville Road
Robbinsville, NJ 08691
Phone: (609) 259-2150

Twin Rivers Branch Library

The Mercer County Library System
276 Abbington Drive
East Windsor, NJ 08520
Phone: (609) 443-1880

West Windsor Branch Library

The Mercer County Library System
333 N. Post Road
Princeton Jct., NJ 08550
Phone: (609) 799-0462



New Jersey...

Guide To...

How to...

**Reconnecting with Family**

As you prepare to come home, you may be thinking about reuniting with family members, including those you may not have seen for a long time. You may be excited to see your kids, spouse, parents, and others who are part of your family, and they may be glad to see you home, but your return can be stressful for you and for them. All kinds of issues can come up, and you may need some help solving some of the problems that arise. This section provides some information and resources to help solve these issues.

A. Family Counseling Resources

The following places can provide support, marital and family counseling and parenting classes to help you reunite with your family.

Addiction Counseling, Mentoring

PO Box 152
Titusville, NJ 08560
215-493-0995
Family Counseling

Center for Innovative Family Achievement (CIFA)

380 Scotch Road
West Trenton , NJ 08628
609-406-0100
Family

Counseling and Case Management

707 Alexander Road, Suite 102
Princeton, NJ 08540
609-987-8100
Family Counseling

Family Guidance Center

946 Englewood Avenue
Trenton , NJ 08609
609-924-1320
800-813-0555
Family Counseling

Mercer Street Friends Center

151 Mercer Street
Trenton , NJ 08611
609-989-1925
Family, Family Counseling, Family Services

Trinity Counseling Service

22 Stockton Street
Princeton , NJ 08540
609-924-0060
Children, Family, Family Counseling, Family Preservation, Family Services,
Marriage

B. Child Custody and Visitation

Establishing visitation and gaining custody of your children once you are released is not an overnight procedure. If you had custody of your kids at the time you were incarcerated, and no family was able to take care of them, they may have been placed in foster care. If this is the case, and you do not know your child's case manager's name or number, contact the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), at 50 East State Street, PO Box 717, Trenton 609-292-6920. You will have to make an appointment with the case manager for an interview. They may not be willing to give you information over the phone. You'll be asked a series of questions in order to assess when and if you will be given visitation rights, so that you may reestablish your relationship with the child and hopefully gain custody again. This is just a quick overview of what to do and what you can expect. Family



- Call DYFS and ask to speak to your child's case manager. For example: "Hi, my name is _____. I have recently been released from prison. My child _____ has been under foster care while I have been incarcerated. I would like to speak to the case manager so that I can make an appointment with him or her." Make an appointment.
- Be sure to arrive at the appointment on time, and call if you are running late or need to reschedule. Bring paper and pencil to write down any information the case manager gives you. **This is your chance to ask questions so take advantage of it!**
- Be prepared to talk about your criminal background, and any problems that you may have such as alcohol or drugs. The case manager can ask you if you have a place to live and other personal questions in order to assess whether you are eligible to establish visitation with your child. If you can, ask a friend

or relative to help you practice answering these kinds of questions. Make sure to pay attention to what the case manager says and ask about anything that you do not understand. The impression you make in the interview is important. If you feel yourself getting angry, ask for a cup of water, and take an extra breath to cool down. Answer questions honestly, even about things like substance abuse, because the case manager may be able to assist with getting you into treatment or with other help you may need.

The best way to help your child is to help yourself first. Make sure you leave the office with all documents that the case manager gave you regarding your child, and remember to ask for a business card from the case manager, in case you have questions later on.

If you were convicted of any violent or sexual offenses against children, you may be unable to live with or regain custody of your children.

C. Getting and Paying Child Support

Whether you have custody of your children on your own when you get out, and need help from an absent (“noncustodial”) parent, or you do not have custody of kids who need your support, child support payments will be an important part of your life after you are released. Some basic information is included below, as well as other places to go to get more information. Child support, custody and visitation issues are very complicated, and if you can get **a lawyer, you should**. Contact the Legal Services of New Jersey hotline, from 9:00 am - 4:30 pm, at 888-576-5529, or the Mercer County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service at 609-585-6200. You can also contact Central Jersey Legal Services at 198 W State Street, Trenton 609- 695-6249. From prison, you can also contact the Prisoner’s Self-Help Legal Clinic, PO Box 768, Newark, 973-242-3688.

GETTING AND ENFORCING A CHILD SUPPORT ORDER

If you have custody of your children, and want financial support from the non-custodial parent, you can apply for child support at the Mercer County Family Court Building, 175 South Broad Street, PO Box 8068, Trenton NJ 08650, 609-571-4400. You will need to complete an application, also available at <http://www.njchildsupport.org/pdfs/njcsform.pdf> and a one-time \$6 check, money order or cash. You can also call 1-877-NJKIDS1 for more information about this. If you are receiving public assistance, there is no fee, and Work First New Jersey/TANF can help with the application, locating the absent parent, and paternity testing, but you won’t get most of the money paid in support while you are receiving public assistance, because it will go to pay back the state for what has been paid to you. Child Support Services of the Probation Division is located at Mercer County Child Support in the Mercer County Family Court Building, 1-877-NJKIDS1, which helps enforce child support orders. The phone number there is 973-247-8632.ith Family

PAYING CHILD SUPPORT

If you have kids that you did not have custody of before you went to prison, there may be a child support order requiring you to pay a certain amount every month for their support. Even if you did not go to court — if, for example, the parent with custody filed for the order while you were incarcerated — the court can still order you to pay child support. The amount you pay in child support is tied to your income, and if the court does not know your income, they will assume you are working 40 hours a week at minimum wage. Child support payments are usually taken out of your paycheck. If you have not paid at all or missed payments, you will owe “arrear.” Unless you got a modification of your child support order when you went into prison (see below), the amount of arrears that you owe will have continued to grow while you were inside. When you come out, and get a job, they can begin to take out not just the monthly amount you owe for child support, but more money to pay back the arrears (up to 65% of your pay in total). They may also suspend your driver’s license only if there is a warrant. If the warrant is cleared the

client must pay \$100 restoration fee to DMV unless waived by court order.
Here are some things you can do:

PRE-RELEASE: Before you are released, you can seek a modification of a child support order, based on your change in circumstances (incarceration). You would ask the court to reduce the amount you owe, so that arrears do not continue to build up while you are in prison. This process can be done without a lawyer but it is complicated, because you have to fill out and send the appropriate papers to court, the other parent or his or her lawyer, and to the Probation Division. The forms you need and the instructions are available at the state judiciary website, www.judiciary.state.nj.us/prose/infmpjm.pdf, or may be available in your prison law library.

POST-RELEASE: You can find out how much you owe, and whether there is an existing child support order by calling the state office of child support services at 877-655-4371. If you have not been paying child support, you should be aware that there may be a warrant issued for your arrest – this may have been addressed at the time you were being released, but you should still call. Tell them who you are, that you have just been released from prison and that you would like information on paying your child support. You should also ask if there is a warrant.

D. Domestic Violence Resources

The following places provide counseling, support and shelter or referrals to shelter in domestic violence situations. You can also call the 24-hour hotline from the New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women: 800-572-SAFE.

Mercer County Domestic Violence Specialist

Family Division
Administrative Office of the Courts
Hughes Justice Complex
PO Box 983 7-N
Trenton, NJ 08650

Womanspace, Inc.

1212 Stuyvesant Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08609

Emergency Shelter

609-394-9000 (24-Hr. Hotline)

800-572-SAFE [7233] (State Hotline)

TTY: 609-394-9000 or 1-888-252-SAFE [7233]

609-394-0136 (office)

www.womanspace.org

Outreach

1860 Brunswick Avenue
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
609-394-2532

The Domestic Violence Representation Project (DVRP)

The DVRP was established in 1996 to provide legal assistance to low-income domestic violence victims and support for pro bono attorneys willing to represent victims of domestic violence. The project offers legal advice and representation to eligible victims of domestic violence at Final Restraining Order hearings as well as in divorce, custody, child support and visitation cases. Clients can access the project by calling LSNJ's main number, 732-572-9100 or 888-576-5529.

Getting More Education

Getting more education should be a part of your long term planning. High school graduates earn more than those who do not finish high school or earn a GED. To improve your chances of getting a job that pays a living wage, check out the opportunities listed below. Opportunities are available to improve your basic skills, English language skills, preparation for the New Jersey State GED examination or higher education and/or training.

A. Adult Basic Education (ABE) or English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) Instruction

Instruction to help you improve your basic skills in reading, writing and math or English language skills are available at different locations in Mercer County. In most cases, the instruction is free.

Latinas Unidas, YWCA of Trenton

140 E. Hanover Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-396-8291
www.ywcatrenton.org

Literacy Volunteers in Mercer County, Inc.

3535 Quakerbridge Road
Hamilton, NJ 08619
609-587-6027
www.princetonol.com/groups/lvcmc/home.html

Mercer County Community College

James Kerney Campus
Adult Education Program
N. Broad & Academy Streets
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-570-3185
www.mccc.edu

Mercer Street Friends

222 N. Hermitage Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08618
609-989-1925
www.mercerstreetfriends.org

Trenton Area Soup Kitchen

Adult Education Program
71 ½ Escher Street
Trenton, NJ 08609
www.trentonsoupkitchen.org

UIH Family Partners

4 N. Broad St., 2nd Floor Rear
Trenton, NJ 08608
609.695.3663

West Windsor-Plainsboro Board of Education

500 Village Road West
Princeton Junction, NJ 08550
609-716-5030
www.ww-p.org

The YWCA of Princeton

59 Paul Robeson Place
Princeton, NJ 08540
609-497-2100
www.ywcaprinceton.org

B. GED Classes

Classes to help you prepare for your NJ State GED Examination are provided by the following organizations in Mercer County. Many offer classes at low cost or no cost.

GED Locations**Hamilton Township Public Schools**

90 Park Avenue
Hamilton, NJ 08690
609-631-4100
www.hamilton.k12.nj.us

Mercer County Community College

James Kerney Campus
Adult Education Department
N Broad & Academy Streets
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-570-3185
www.mccc.edu

Mercer County One Stop Career Center

Workforce Learning Link
26 Yard Avenue – 1st floor
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-0620
www.nj.gov/counties/mercerc/commissions/investment/career.html

Mercer County Technical Schools

1085 Old Trenton Road
Trenton, NJ 08690
609-586-2129
www.mctec.net

Mercer Street Friends

222 N. Hermitage Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08618
609-989-1925
www.mercerstreetfriends.org

New Jersey Department of Education

GED Testing Program
Trenton
609.777.1050
GED Transcript and High School Diploma Verification

Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK)

Adult Education Program
71 ½ Escher Street
Trenton, NJ 08609
www.trentonsoupkitchen.org

Trenton Public Schools

Daylight/Twilight High School
720 Bellevue Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08618
September 1, 2008 opening:
135 East Hanover Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-989-2494
www.trenton.k12.nj.us/Daylight

C. Higher Education

You may already have your high school diploma or GED and want to continue your education. A variety of colleges or universities offer programs so you can earn your associate's, bachelor's or graduate degree.

LOCAL AREA COLLEGES**Mercer County Community College**

West Windsor Campus
1200 Old Trenton Road
West Windsor, NJ 08550
609.586.4800 ext 3204

James Kearney Campus
102 N Broad Streets
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-570-3139
www.mccc.edu

Princeton Theological Seminary

64 Mercer Street
Princeton, NJ 08540
609.497.3654
www.pptsem.edu

**Princeton University
Undergraduate Admissions Office
PO Box 430**

Princeton, NJ 08544
609.258.3060
609.258.3000
www.princeton.edu

Rider University

Lawrenceville Campus
2083 Lawrence Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
609-896-5000
800-257-9026

Princeton Campus
101 Walnut Lane
Princeton, NJ 08540
609.896.5000 (Main)
800.257.9026 (Admissions)
www.rider.edu

**The College of New Jersey
Office of Admissions**

2000 Pennington Road
Ewing, NJ 08628-0718
609-771-2131
www.tcnj.edu

Thomas Edison State College

101 W State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608-1176
1.888.442.8372
www.tesc.edu

D. Additional educational resources

GED Connection

NJN (New Jersey Public Television & Radio)
www.njn.net

Crossroads Café

NJN (New Jersey Public Television & Radio)
www.njn.net

Mercer County Technical Schools

1085 Old Trenton Road
Trenton, NJ 08690
609-566-2129
www.mctec.net

The St. Francis Medical School of Nursing

601 Hamilton Street
Trenton, NJ 08629
609-599-5000
www.stfrancismedical.com/educationprog

The St. Francis School of Radiologic Technology

601 Hamilton Street
Trenton, NJ 08629
609-500-5000
www.stfrancismedical.com/educationprog

E. Training opportunities

Contact the Mercer County One Stop Career Center (MCOSCC) for information about available job training opportunities.

Mercer County One Stop Career Center

26 Yard Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08650
609-989-6523
877-989-AJOB (Toll Free)

CAN I GET FINANCIAL AID?

Financial assistance is available to pay for higher education and some training programs. To apply, you must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form. Everyone must answer Question 31 about drug convictions. If you answer yes, you must complete a Student Aid Eligibility Worksheet to determine if your eligibility will be affected. If you have been convicted for the possession or sale of illegal drugs for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid, you will, in general, be ineligible for a specified period of time based on the type and number of convictions. The Financial Aid Officer at your educational institution will be able to provide more information about your eligibility.

Other Things You Need to Know

A. Getting Legal Assistance

To get assistance with civil (not criminal) cases, you can contact the toll-free hotline at **888-576-5529** for **Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ)**, which provides both information and referrals. The Central Jersey Legal Services, 198 W State Street, Trenton, at 609-695-6249 also serves Mercer County. From prison, you can also contact the Prisoner's Self-Help Legal Clinic, PO Box 768, Newark, NJ 07101.

B. Checking and Correcting Your Criminal Record (“rap sheet”)

Since employers, landlords and others will be performing criminal background checks and getting copies of your criminal record, it is important that you know what is on it, and that it is accurate. You should also be prepared to answer any questions about your background. You will have to go into your local police station and make an appointment to be fingerprinted on a State Applicant Fingerprint Card (SB119). On that card you will have to include your full name, social security number, date of birth and purpose for the record check. You then mail the card, with a cover letter listing the purpose of the request, the name of the person whose records are being requested, and the address where the records should be sent, to:

State Section of Identification
Records and Identification Bureau
New Jersey State Police
PO Box 7068
West Trenton, NJ 08628
1-609-882-2000 ext 6425
1-609-530-4856 fax

You must include a \$30 money order or cashier’s check, certified check, or business check made payable to: DIVISION OF STATE POLICE-SBI. No personal checks are accepted.

C. Expungement: Cleaning Up Your Criminal Record

You may have heard about expungement as one way to clean up your criminal record as you get some distance from your old arrests and convictions. Unfortunately, expungement is fairly limited in New Jersey. You can expunge any arrest that did not lead to a conviction at any point. You can expunge “disorderly persons offenses,” which are low-level offenses in New Jersey, after 5 years, and most municipal ordinance offenses after 2 years. Convictions for “indictable offenses” (felonies), can be expunged 10 years from the date of conviction, payment of any fine, satisfactory completion of probation or parole or release from incarceration, but whichever is latest. The most serious of these offenses, such as murder, kidnapping, aggravated sexual assault, robbery, arson, perjury and distribution, sale or possession with intent to distribute of controlled dangerous substances (drugs), **can never be expunged**. Expungement is a broader remedy for offenses committed as a juvenile. Legal Services of New Jersey has published a guide to cleaning up your record through expungement. To get a copy of the book, which costs **\$15**, call 1-888-576-5529, or go to the LSNJ website, where you can download it for free at:

<http://www.lsnj.org/english/crime/municipalcourt/clearingyourrecord.cfm>.

D. Checking and Correcting Your Credit Record

While New Jersey allows employers to look at your criminal record, many employers – and others like landlords and mortgage companies – will use a credit report instead of, or in addition to, the state’s records. Credit records are maintained by private companies and generally have information about your debts, your history of paying bills and other financial matters, but may also have information about your criminal record. That information may not be correct, and the law does offer you some protections. For example, if an employer uses a credit record to deny you a job, they have to tell you this, and give you the name, address and phone number of the agency that provided the report, and the agency must give you a copy of that information on your request. They cannot charge you money for that request if the employer used the report to deny you a job. If the records of the credit agency contain incorrect information, they must investigate and correct inaccurate information. You can get ahead of the curve by getting a copy of your

credit record and making sure there isn't any incorrect information on it. New Jersey residents are allowed one free credit report each year.

Write or call to the primary credit agencies listed below. Be sure to provide your full name, current address, Social Security number, and most recent former address for file-matching purposes.

EQUIFAX INFORMATION SERVICES, LLC

PO Box 740241
Atlanta, GA 30374
800-685-1111
www.equifax.com

TRANSUNION PERSONAL CREDIT REPORT

PO Box 1000, Chester PA 19022
800-888-4213
www.transunion.com

EXPERIAN

PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013
800-397-3742

E. Voting Rights

New Jersey law does not allow you to vote while you are in prison, or while you are on probation or parole for an indictable offense. (Disorderly person offenses don't disqualify you.) Any person who is no longer in prison, or has completed his or her term of probation or parole can register to vote. That is the law. Make sure that you are registered in the county in which you reside.

Applications for registration can be obtained from the Division of Elections, the Commissioners of Registration office in the County where you live or from your Municipal Clerk. Registration forms are also available in various state agencies and at Motor Vehicle Commission offices and can be obtained while transacting agency business. If you are not sure, you can visit http://www.state.nj.us/lps/elections/vote_doe.html or www.njelections.org. You will be able to download a Voter's Registration form and mail it in. This site also explains who can register to vote and where you can register.

F. Registration of Sexual Offenders (Megan's Law)

Sex offenders are required to register with the police under Megan's Law. Offenses include: aggravated sexual assault; sexual assault; aggravated criminal sexual contact; endangering the welfare of a child by engaging in sexual conduct which would impair or debauch the morals of the child; luring or enticing and, if the victim were a minor and the offender not a parent, kidnapping; criminal restraint and false imprisonment and promoting prostitution of a child under 18. You will be registered prior to release, but must re-register your home address at least 10 days prior to any move with the law enforcement agency with which you were registered when released. You will also need to verify your address annually or every 90 days if you are a repetitive and compulsive offender.

[illegible]

The Game Plan

Your first weeks out after leaving prison can be overwhelming. This section is set up to help you get organized and keep yourself on track toward your goals. First, think about what those goals are. What do you want or need to get done in your first week out? In your first month out? Where do you want to be in six months? There are lots of things that other people need you to do – your parole officer, for example, and your family – but you also need to think about what you expect from yourself.

Places to stay

Appointments to make? Doctors? Job help? Employers? Applying for benefits?

People I need to see or call:

Who? _____
Who? _____

Your First Weeks Out

Here is a basic calendar to use to plan your first days out of prison. On the next page, there are some questions to ask yourself about what you plan to do. You can mark appointments on the calendar, and write dates in the small boxes.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sun	Sun	Sun	Sun	Mon	Mon	Mon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mon	Mon	Tue	Tue	Wed	Wed	Wed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tue	Tue	Wed	Wed	Thu	Thu	Fri
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wed	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sat	Sat
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thu	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sat	Sat	Sat
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fri	Fri	Sat	Sat	Sat	Sat	Sat
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sat	Sat	Sat	Sat	Sat	Sat	Sat

For how long?

For how long?

For how long?

When? _____

When? _____

When? _____

Where/phone number?

Where/phone number?

Where/phone number?

55

Other things I need to do (get identification, get prescriptions, go to a support group, etc.):

Notes: _____

IDENTIFICATION Checklist

Documents	Have	Need
Social Security Card	_____	_____
Birth Certificate	_____	_____
County Identification	_____	_____
Driver's License	_____	_____
Non-driver's Identification	_____	_____
Certificate of Naturalization	_____	_____
Green Card	_____	_____
Military Discharge Papers	_____	_____
Passport	_____	_____
High School or General Education Diploma	_____	_____
Prison Release Papers	_____	_____

Notes: _____

Getting Ready to Apply for a Job

Most employers ask questions about your background and experience, in addition to personal information. If you don't already have a résumé, use this space to list information you need to fill out a job application, or for an interview. Don't forget to include dates.

Education**Dates**

(For example: list high school, GED, or other education, and include any trade or vocational certificates.)

Work Experience**Dates**

References**Phone Numbers**

(List people who know you and can speak well of you.)

My Contacts:**Important Names and Phone Numbers**

Parole Officer: _____

Parole Number: _____

Parole Office: _____

Address: _____

Smart Book Topics



**Getting Started:
Identification & Other Documents**



**First Steps After Release:
Where Do I Go to Find ...?**



**Taking Care of Yourself:
Getting Support**



**Taking Care of Yourself:
Health Care Resources**



**Finding a Job: Employment
Assistance and Training Programs**



Reconnecting With Family



Getting More Education



Other Things You Need to Know



The Game Plan

***Members of the
Mercer County Ex-Offender Reentry Partnership***

UIH Family Partners

864 Bellevue Ave
Trenton, NJ 08618
609.695.1492

Albert "Bo" Robinson Assessment & Treatment Facility

377 Enterprise Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08638
609.695.7050

Capital Corridor Community Development Corp.

433 Bellevue Ave., 4th Floor
Trenton, NJ 08618
609.392.0034

Children's Futures, Inc.

28 West State St.
Trenton, NJ 08608
609.695.1977

City of Trenton
Dept. of Health and Human Services
319 E. State St.
Trenton, NJ 08608
609.989.3363

County of Mercer
Dept. of Human Services
640 S. Broad St.
Trenton, NJ 08650
609.989.6982

Daughters of Zion, Inc.

51 Edgemere Ave
Trenton, NJ 08618
609.575.4612

Greater Trenton Behavioral HealthCare

PO Box 1393
Trenton, NJ 08607
609.396.6788

Isles, Inc.
619 Greenwood Ave.
Trenton, NJ 08609
609.341.4714

Mayor's Office of Employment and Training (MOET)

City of Trenton
319 East State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-815.2195

Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness

3131 Princeton Pike, Bldg. 4 Suite 113
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
609.844.1006

*Mercer County Community College
Broad & Academy Streets
Trenton, NJ 0860
609.570.3185*

*Mercer County Board of Social Services
200 Woolverton Street
Trenton, NJ 08650
609.394.6657*

*Mercer County Dept. of Corrections
P.O. Box 8068
Trenton, NJ 08650*

Rescue Mission of Trenton
*98 Carroll Street
PO Box 790
Trenton, NJ 08605-0790
609.695.1436*

*St. Phillips Baptist Church
445 Parkinson Ave.
Trenton, NJ 08610
609.394.3857*

*State of New Jersey
Dept. of Corrections
Office of Transitional Services
Whittlesey Road
Trenton, NJ 08625
609.292.3257*

*State of New Jersey
Juvenile Justice Commission
1001 Spruce Street, Suite 202
Trenton, NJ 08625*

*State of New Jersey
Parole Board
P.O. Box 862
Trenton, NJ 08625*

Trenton Area Soup Kitchen
*72 ½ Escher Street
Trenton, NJ 08605
609.695.5456*

Ujima Ministries
1001 Pennington Road
Ewing, NJ 08618
609.882.0788

United Way of Greater Mercer County
3131 Princeton Pike, Bldg. 4
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
609.637.4910

W.E.C Resource Group/New Lease on Life
306 W. State. Street
Trenton, NJ 08618
609.393.0092

